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**Providing Internet Users with Presence Information About Telephone Lines in the
Public Switched Telephone Network**

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Abstract

Presence state information is made available to an Internet user about a public switched
15 telephone network (PSTN) subscriber utilizing a first terminal that does not have direct
Internet communications capability. First messages from the PSTN switch providing
communication services to the PSTN subscriber are received. The first messages contain call
event information. The presence state of the PSTN subscriber is determined based on the call
event information. A second message is transmitted using Internet protocol to the Internet
20 terminal of the Internet user, the second message containing the presence state information
about the PSTN subscriber.